

Appl. No.: 09/723,687
Amdt. dated December 17, 2003
Reply to Office action of October 2, 2003

or a static prediction is not desired, the pair of bits is encoded to instruct the processor not to use static prediction for the corresponding instruction.

The processor also includes fetch logic which fetches instructions. The static branch prediction instruction identifies itself to the processor by including a predetermined register identifier that does not correspond to a register in the processor. The fetch unit examines the fetched instructions for that predetermined value to identify the static branch prediction instructions.

A computer system comprises a processor that comprises a hardware branch predictor and software instructions executed by the processor. The software instructions comprise conditional branch instructions and separate static branch prediction instructions. The static branch prediction instructions comprise a plurality of groups of static branch prediction bits, each group being configurable to provide prediction information for a separate conditional branch instruction.